

**Speech by Er. Chong Kee Sen, President, The Institution of Engineers, Singapore,
at the Official Launch of the Young Engineers Leadership (YEL) Programme on Monday,
18 August 2014 at NTUC Centre, One Marina Boulevard**

Our Guest-of-Honour, NTUC Secretary-General Mr Lim Swee Say,

Representatives from our partner, NTUC:

Assistant Secretary-General Mr Patrick Tay

Assistant Secretary-General Mr Zainal bin Sapari

Membership Council Secretary Mr Vivek Kumar

Membership Committee Chairman, Mr Lim Kuang Beng

Distinguished Guests,

Members of IES and NTUC,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

1. It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to the official launch of the Young Engineers Leadership Programme, or YEL Programme, this afternoon.
2. On behalf of The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES), I would like to express my appreciation to Minister Lim Swee Say for his strong support towards this programme and for gracing the occasion today.

3. Engineering, science and technology have been the pillars enabling the growth of Singapore's economy in the past 50 years. Engineers are the ones who have played a significant role in defining our beautiful city skyline with breathtaking engineering feats, realising the provision of clean water and energy to our people, and delivering lifestyle-changing innovations into our hands. For Singapore to continue to make significant progress well into the future, we need new generations of leaders to continue to emerge from the engineering field. We need engineers with ingenuity and passion to take leadership positions in both the private and public sectors.

4. IES is committed to the grooming of future engineering leaders, as this is in line with our core mission of advancing and promoting the science, art and profession of engineering.

5. To achieve this objective, we focus on several areas. We believe that the first step is to engage and enthuse young engineers so that they remain in the industry and continue the good work of our pioneer engineers. Young engineers require role models to inspire them and act as beacons of light guiding them in their journeys as engineers. To this end, IES has been identifying engineers who have made significant contributions to our economy and society and putting the spotlight on them and their achievements, so that young engineers can have someone to look up to. We do this mainly through two awards – the IES Prestigious Engineering Achievement Awards to recognise individual engineers and organisations for their game-changing innovations; and the IES Lifetime Engineering Achievement Awards

to recognise engineers who have made profound impact on the engineering industry and have benefitted the community at large.

6. IES believes that another important way to nurture future engineers is to provide them with pathways for career progression. This prompted IES to launch the Chartered Engineer certification programme in September last year. This is an important initiative for young engineers, as it provides them with a platform to validate their experience, expertise and practising competence. In time to come, it will also help them establish professional standing in their respective engineering disciplines.

7. IES has been supporting young engineers to sharpen their leadership skills for many years. Back in 2011, we established the IES College of Fellows to harness and direct the collective knowledge base and expertise of engineering veterans towards educating future engineers. With this programme, we aim to build a vibrant engineering community where pioneer engineers can mentor young engineers to create long-term sustainability for Singapore.

8. Today, we see another important milestone in our effort to help young engineers become leaders. IES, in collaboration with NTUC, is launching the YEL Programme to equip young engineers with the necessary leadership skills and management knowledge to take their careers to the next level. The year-long YEL Programme will focus on developing the engineering, leadership and communication skills of young

engineers, and providing them with exclusive mentorship and networking opportunities.

9. IES is privileged to have the support of various industry partners, experienced engineers and employers for the YEL Programme. I would like to express my appreciation for your willingness to share your resources, experience and knowledge with the next generation of engineers.

10. In closing, I would like to thank NTUC Secretary-General Mr Lim Swee Say again, for taking the time to be with us today. IES strives to work hand in hand with NTUC through the YEL and other programmes to prepare young engineers of today to become world-class leaders tomorrow.

Thank you.